



ABERDEEN v CELTIC

Sunday, 14th March, 1999

Kick off 6.05 pm

SPL
SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

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FROM THE DUGOUT

This evening we welcome Celtic to Pittodrie Stadium for our first 'live' match of the the year and if the excitement is anything like it was when we played here back in August, there will not be many complaints! In the end, as you will remember, we took the points but it would be nice to do that again without so many heart-stopping moments!

In our last outing at Tynecastle a fortnight ago, our performance was very pleasing and it was one of those games when all of the good work which is undertaken on the training ground was taken forward into the match itself with resultant benefits.

I have made it clear to the players that we now must continue in the same vein on an ongoing basis as it is absolutely no good whatsoever simply turning it on when we feel like it. All too often in the past, we have followed up a good performance with a poor one and we must really aim for a consistency which has sometimes been lacking.

I thought Paul Bernard, given that it was his first full ninety minutes for a year, was exceptional, and he pulled the strings in the middle of the park. His fitness level is very high and he gelled well with Andreas Mayer in the engine room area.

I was also pleased for Dennis Wyness who took his first senior goal with tremendous composure. I'm sure most people thought he was going to blast the ball past Roddie McKenzie but instead he elected to stroke it home. The goal, of course, came after an excellent move involving Eoin Jess and Paul Bernard.

All in all though, it was a good team



performance with everyone battling for one another, whilst we concentrated on what we are good at, which is passing the ball on the deck. Since then we have been working very hard in training, as well as having the friendly at Raith Rovers last weekend, and I have been pleased by the way the lads have been going about their business.

The victory at Hearts a couple of weeks ago was a stepping stone in our move up the league but no more than that. I am acutely aware we are still in danger of getting ourselves sucked right back in to the danger zone if we allow our standards to drop. That is why, as I said earlier, we must continue against Celtic this evening with exactly the same determination and display of character we showed a fortnight ago.

PAUL HEGARTY



JIM LEIGHTON

**“Scottish fans have
always been in a
league of their own.”**

Now, the top Scottish clubs
are in a league of their
own as well.”

SPL
SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

The logo for the Scottish Premier League (SPL) features the letters 'SPL' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. To the right of the letters is a stylized soccer ball composed of blue and white curved segments. Below the 'SPL' text, the words 'SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE' are written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

CAPTAIN'S LOG

The victory against Hearts at Tynecastle a couple of weeks ago was extremely welcome to say the least and certainly has taken the pressure off somewhat as far as our league status is concerned although there is no way we are being complacent.

Our target now is to finish as high up the table as we possibly can and with ten games still to go, there are plenty points to play for.

Tonight we meet my old club Celtic in front of the Sky Sports television cameras, just as we did back in August when the game had just about everything imaginable in it, before we eventually came through 3-2. Whilst some people thought there had been an element of luck about our win, more of the same tonight would do quite nicely.

Our trip to Celtic Park in October was not such a happy affair and we came off second best in a 2-0 reversal which, to be frank, we could have no complaints about.

Fans often ask me if it is any different when you play against your former club and the honest answer is that it is not, at least not consciously. As a professional, you want to go out and do your best, irrespective of the opposition and anyway it's been quite a few seasons since I was at Celtic.

Some of the televised matches recently have been pretty one sided affairs and hopefully, if that is the case this evening, it is in our favour!



Personally though, I believe this will be an extremely difficult match in which Celtic will start as overwhelming favourites. However, if we approach the game in the same manner as we did in Edinburgh recently, then we may just cause a wee upset. I know the majority of the fans will be right behind us and that will make a huge difference.

Enjoy the game!

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Tom Gordon, Mairs Coaching
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NEWS & GOSSIP

MATCH SPONSOR



The match sponsor at the Kilmarnock game was Ross Tubular Services. Dave Ross and members of his staff are pictured with man of the match, Andreas Mayer.

MATCHBALL SPONSOR



Souters Sportsturf were the matchball sponsor at the Kilmarnock game and they are pictured receiving their ball from Paul Bernard.

CHRISTMAS CARD WINNER



Neil MacRae from Blairgowrie was the winner of the Shell Dons Youngstars Christmas Card competition and received a VIP day out at the Kilmarnock game. Neil is pictured before the game receiving his autographed AFC football from Nigel Pepper.



RNIB TABLE FOOTBALL

David Rowson and Russell Anderson were on hand at the Aberdeen Beach Leisure Centre to help launch a human table football competition for the RNIB. The players took part in one of the games which involves participants being strapped to a pole. From what we've heard, the players didn't look all that impressive!

HMV

TEAM UP WITH THE DONS

Today's music is provided by HMV in the Trinity Centre, Aberdeen. HMV will be providing music for all home matches for this season.

FORTHCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

in The Richard Donald Suite:

St. Patrick's Night Dance

with Garich Blend — 8 p.m.-12.45 p.m.
Tickets £8.00 (inc. 3 drinks)

April 5th, 6th, 7th

Graham Geddes and the Band

Entry free by ticket — 7.30 p.m.-10.30 p.m.

All events feature: Mini Bingo, Grand Raffle and Licensed Bar
Tickets for the above events are available from Pittodrie
two weeks before the concert.

For further details contact George Cadenhead on (01224) 650425

Community Events in association
with HYDRO ELECTRIC



NEWS & GOSSIP

TICKET OFFICE NEWS

Please note the following new telephone numbers in the ticket office: Lottery is now 01224 6504365 and the Golden Strike is 01224 650422.

The Ticket Office will be selling tickets for the two Scotland games and tickets are on sale for the away game at Motherwell. The Club have received 5,000 tickets which are priced at £11 and £3.

Birthday Boys

March is quite a busy month for birthdays among the Pittodrie playing staff, four of its members having special days to celebrate.

Reserve defender Phil McGuire started the procession a week past Thursday when he became 19 and another 19th birthday celebrant is goalkeeper Ryan Esson, whose big day is next Friday. Dennis Wyness follows his 22nd birthday on March 22 and Gary Smith is 28 three days later.

Looking Ahead

Fir Park, the Dons' destination on Premier League business next Saturday, could be described as one of Aberdeen's happier hunting grounds, although drawn games predominate in their league visits to Motherwell.

Since incurring two Premier Division defeats there in season 1995/96 - by a single goal margin on each occasion - Aberdeen have recorded two 2-1 wins and three 2-2 draws.

The Dons' Fir Park record in Premier Division and Premier League games reads:

P39 W15 D17 L7 F53 A36

PROMOTIONS NEWS

Scratchcard Winners

D Smith from Kincorth, Aberdeen was the lucky winner of £1000 in the Dons Scratchcard recently with M Boylan from Aberdeen also winning the jackpot two weeks ago. Agents are required for selling scratchcards with 10% commission available as well as free match ticket incentives. Agents are also required for the Dons Golden Strike (with 15% commission payable) and Promotions Manager Jim Whyte wants to hear from you. If you would like further information **contact Jim on 01224 650437.**

RED ARMY BONANZA

The 50/50 halftime draw from the Kilmarnock game has still not been claimed. The winning ticket number 37456 was sold in the Richard Donald Stand with £1240 up for grabs. If you are the lucky winner, **contact Jim Whyte on 01224 650437.**

JACK ALLISTER

Another link with the successful Aberdeen team of the 50's has been severed with the recent death of Jack Allister after a lengthy illness in his native Edinburgh.

The more senior Dons' followers will remember Jack primarily as part of an immortal Pittodrie half-back line of Allister, Young and Glen, a combination which contributed significantly to the capture of the club's first Scottish League championship title in season 1954-55, finishing as league runners up in the following season, winning the League cup in 1955, and reaching successive Scottish Cup finals in 1953 and 1954.

Jack joined Aberdeen after a spell with Chelsea in the early 50s under the managership of David Halliday and later served under David Shaw.

Operating as a traditional wing-half (that was before the term 'midfield player' entered football's vocabulary) with equal responsibility for defending and initiating attacks, Jack had another string to his bow in his consistent ability to convert penalty kicks and, on occasion, score direct in free kick situations.

In his 163 first-team appearances spread over six seasons from 1952 to 1958, his tally of 27 goals included 16 penalty conversions, and on three occasions he scored twice from the spot in a game.

A quiet, almost withdrawn, individual off the field, Jack set his slim wiriness into perpetual motion on it, and, as a former paratrooper, he was more than capable of holding his own in any physical exchanges.

After his Pittodrie departure, he had a spell in Highland League football with Deveronvale, but it will be his contribution to the Dons' emergence as a force in Scottish football that Jack Allister will be long remembered in the North east.

SUPPORTERS' NEWS

YOUR BRANCH

We get a good response from supporters clubs but we are always on the look out for more. Remember this is your opportunity to advertise your Supporter's Club and gain more members.

Any Supporters Clubs who want to advertise in the programme should send details of their club to:

Paul Third, PR Department, Aberdeen F.C.,
Pittodrie Stadium, Aberdeen AB24 5QH.

Competition Feature


Brush up on your drawing skills with Atlantic Telecom and help us find a buddy!!





Calling all budding young artists! Atlantic Telecom has just launched a major new competition, which is being supported by AFC and the Evening Express. All local school children are invited to brush up on their painting skills and design an Atlantic Telecom mascot as a mate for Angus the Bull and Wee Alickie.

The new mascot will be made from the winning design, so we are looking for lots of great ideas to make sure that we can find a great pal for Angus and Alickie.

We've got some fantastic prizes up for grabs - the winning designer will be presented with a PLAYSTATION and

TWO games and get to be a VIP for a day when the mascot is launched. The winning designer's class will be on the ball when they join the VIP at the first premiership home game of next season and the school will receive a boost to its art facilities with £500 of drawing equipment. 

There'll also be prizes for the runner's-up class and school, with £50 of drawing equipment and a class trip to the first home game of next season's premiership up for grabs. 

Why don't you get your thinking caps on and see what ideas you can come up with. You can get full details about the competition, together with terms and conditions from your school or check out your latest copy of Starshoot. If you're not a Don's youngstar, then you can always drop into one of the Atlantic shops in the Bon Accord Centre or Union Street, Aberdeen to pick up an entry leaflet. 

Get your paintboxes out and GOOD LUCK!



DONS CLUBCALL 0891 121 551 ————— • 9